
PSYCHE.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., FEB. 1882.

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JOSEPH DUNCAN PUTNAM.

Born 18 Oct. 1855, in Jacksonville, Illinois.
Died 10 Dec. 1881, in Davenport, Iowa.

Mr. Putnam became well known, during the few years of his life, for the extent and thoroughness of his work. In his early life he was brought in contact with persons of scientific tastes, whom he accompanied in many of their rambles and travels. As happens with many other rising naturalists, his ardor manifested itself at first in making collections in many directions, gradually becoming concentrated, until it culminated in the choice of entomology as a special study. He was the eldest child, and was educated at home till he attained the age of ten years; he then attended the public schools of Davenport until seventeen. He was one of the earliest members of the Davenport academy of natural sciences, which was founded when he was but twelve years old. Perhaps to no other single mind did the academy become so much indebted as to him. He labored indefatigably for it, losing sight of his own interests in his zeal. He was elected recording secretary, 28 April 1871, before he had reached the age of 16.

and retained this office until January 1875, when ill-health forced him to resign. He became a member of the publishing committee in November 1875, and chairman of the same in January 1877. Meanwhile, in the spring of 1876, he began the publication of the proceedings of the academy, which he carried into their third volume before his death. In November 1876 he was elected corresponding secretary, and during the following years conducted a regular correspondence with nearly five hundred scientific societies of different countries, acquiring for this purpose some acquaintance with several foreign languages. At the time of his death he had been for nearly a year the president of the academy, continuing to act as corresponding secretary in the absence of that officer, and attending, at the same time, to the professional duties, in connection with his father's business as a lawyer, by which he earned a livelihood. For the better performance of his duties as author, editor and publisher, he made himself proficient in the arts of printing, wood-engraving, and etching on copper. During the last two years he devoted his spare time to a study of the *galeodidae*, and, during a visit to the east, in 1880, made full abstracts of over 185 writings, leaving but five works on the subject, of which he knew, of which neither an edition nor translation was seen. The bibliography will be published, as he intended, in PSYCHE.

From the age of 18 until the time of his death at 26, he struggled against the inroads of consumption of the lungs, with a determination and courage which could not fail to inspire admiration. I first met him, some years ago, upon one of his visits to scientific institutions in Massachusetts, when he could not walk more than one or two blocks in the city without resting to recover his nearly exhausted breath. After his death, his left lung was found to be completely solidified.

He was a careful and accurate original observer, and, it is needless to say, in view of the work he accomplished, a diligent one. He was exceedingly modest, and never spoke in praise of himself or his work. *B: P. M.*